

Blues same again?

HAVING played their thrice postponed quarter-final at Slough in the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup on Tuesday, Wycombe Wanderers can at last press on tomorrow (Saturday) when they visit Chesham United in the semi-final at the Meadow.

Rain and snow brought disappointment on three Saturdays for Wycombe supporters but the Blues made no mistake at Wexham Park on Tuesday with an emphatic 4-1 triumph to add to their 3-0 win there in the Isthmian League.

Wanderers will not be unduly worried if the pitch is hard and frosty tomorrow at Chesham. They adapted to the conditions superbly at Slough and should be able to field the same side.

Chesham, who are in mid-table in Division 1 of the Isthmian League, are full of confidence after a 9-0 annihilation of Witney Town in Tuesday night's Shaw and Kilburn League fixture. Stewart Atkins hit five goals but it must be stated that Wycombe thrashed Witney 6-0 away in their league match some time ago when Witney fielded a side of youngsters.

Among the Chesham newcomers this season are Alan Ayling from St. Albans, Johnny Morris from Milton Keynes and three others who have worked their way up from the Reserves.

Chalfont St Peter, meanwhile, will be trying to make history by reaching the Senior Cup final for the first time. They also face Isthmian Division Two opposition in Wokingham Town, who reached this stage with a 7-1 victory over Newbury.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dulwich	28	18	8	4	57	15	60
Bromley	27	17	7	3	55	23	58
Welling	30	16	8	6	49	23	56
Oxford	28	17	3	8	55	32	54
St Albans	27	15	5	7	60	29	50
Wokingham	27	14	8	5	46	28	50
Ilford	27	13	10	4	34	29	49
Hertford	28	11	8	9	39	37	41
Harlow	25	11	7	7	38	26	40
Chesham	29	11	7	11	43	43	40
Maidenhead	29	10	10	9	40	40	40
Aveley	31	11	5	15	37	50	38
Harrow	23	10	3	10	37	31	33
Hampton	22	9	5	8	25	25	32
Finchley	28	8	12	23	40	32	32
Harwich	25	7	11	38	48	28	28
Hornchurch	28	7	14	39	52	28	28
Horsham	26	7	3	16	24	44	24
Clapton	24	6	4	15	29	46	19
Ware	28	3	8	17	33	58	17
Wembley	27	5	2	20	20	81	17
Casuals	27	3	7	17	30	59	16

Could back for Vase?

BARRIE Gould, Burnham's veteran mid-field player, has completed a four week suspension and is now available for the side's F.A. Vase fifth round tie at home to Eastbourne United tomorrow (Saturday).

If Burnham win, they will travel to Bristol to meet Gloucestershire County League champions Almondsbury Greenway in the quarter-finals on Saturday, March 4.

WYCOMBE THROUGH AT LAST!

WYCOMBE Wanderers finally laid the Slough Town 'bogey' which has haunted them in recent seasons when they skated to a handsome 4-1 victory at Wexham Park on Tuesday night in the quarter-final of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup.

This was a comprehensive victory over local rivals Slough and one which was thoroughly deserved and certainly worth waiting for after the numerous postponements recently. The 'bogey' tag must now surely disappear and Blues manager John Reardon is quick to point out that the overall score stands at 3-1 since he has been in charge.

Tuesday night's meeting was the third attempt by the two sides to arrange this game, as on two previous occasions the Wexham Park pitch was judged unfit for play. Even this time, the ground was concrete-hard and the night bitterly cold.

Ball control was at a premium, and heads seemed to be more in use than feet to cope with a high-bouncing ball. Howard Kennedy went as far as to sport a pair of white plimsolls in an effort to combat the bone-hard conditions.

In spite of the final scoreline, it was the home side that took the lead in the sixth minute.

Slough had the better of the early stages and forced a corner on the left. After a goalmouth scramble another corner resulted, this time on the right. Another scramble screwed the ball out of the pack to be met on the volley by Roger Mackay from fully 20 yards out. A blistering shot gave Peter Spittle no chance.

The next quarter of an hour was a middle-of-the-park affair with players on both sides having difficulty with the high bounce. Kieron Somers in front, and Tim Turl at the back, made full use of their height for Slough, and the pressure was slightly against Wanderers. Somers had a fine header cleared off the line by John Priestley, and Paul Lee went close, outpacing Keith Mead to a loose ball.

After 22 minutes Wycombe levelled the score. From a

Slough Town 1, Wycombe Wanderers 4

goalmouth melee Dylan Evans passed back to Graham Mackenzie on the edge of the box, and 'Jock' met it solidly, driving low and hard under Trevor Porter's body in the Rebels' goal. Once again, Wanderers had relied upon a midfielder to score the goal, a goal in fact resulting from the Blues' first real shot of the game, and the ineffectiveness of the strikers was once again beginning to show.

Neither Mick Holifield nor Tony Horseman were happy in the conditions, and although Dylan Evans worked tirelessly, too many passes went behind his man, putting John Priestley and Paul Birdseye under constant pressure. Birdseye had his finest game for some weeks, and the goals to come all had their beginnings on the right flank.

The Rebels pushed hard, and Lee and Somers both went close in the period up to the half-hour.

But on 32 minutes the Blues came alive again. A move started by Birdseye, who pushed a ball through to Horseman, sent Evans down the line on the right. A perfect first-time cross found Kennedy's head 15 yards out, and a fine header grazed the top of the crossbar. A corner forced by Priestley on the right kept up the pressure, and Horseman, after some fine juggling round Turl, shot just wide from close in.

Approaching half-time, Slough were under severe and constant pressure, and Phil Beal

in particular needed to be at his best in the Rebels' defence. Somers helped at the back, and twice cleared with fine headers from dangerous positions.

On the stroke of half-time, Kennedy received the ball just inside the home half from a hopeful forward lob in what undoubtedly looked like an offside position. The Slough defence was square, and in the event stayed flat-footed expecting the whistle. Kennedy lobbed over the advancing Porter to make it 2-1.

WRATH

As the teams went in for the break the home crowd still seethed about the second goal and vented its wrath on the disappearing officials.

The opening of this second half was a midfield battle mostly on the Wycombe right, with Birdseye as solid as a rock. His long throws from attacking positions were worrying the Slough defence and it was from one of these that Mead's back header was cleared off the line by Underwood with Porter well beaten.

After 58 minutes, Holifield collected a perfect ball from Birdseye and was left clear in the centre of the home half. He dribbled round Porter on the left, pulled the ball back from the line midway between the corner-flag and the target and found Horseman who nodded home from a yard out. The Blues were 3-1 up and looking safer than Slough's hard-working ef-

forts should have allowed.

After 65 minutes, Slough came as near as they would to pulling one back, with Underwood sending Spittle full-stretch for the first and last time.

Wycombe began to ease off, although with Slough's weak left flank and the Blues' powerful right, the visitors always looked dangerous.

Horseman was substituted by Derek Harris for the last quarter of an hour, but the game already seemed won. In the 86th minute Kennedy completed the scoring, being left clear six yards out following a goalmouth scramble.

This was a good win for Wycombe, with an outstanding performance from Birdseye who was ably supported by Mead, Phillips and Bobby Davies. However, again the nagging thought remains that three of the four goals came from midfield players, and that in the main, the Blues' strikers were once more ineffective.

But it was a solid performance against a side that, to their credit, never gave up. It ensures a trip to Chesham United tomorrow (Saturday) for the semi-final of this competition.

SLOUGH TOWN: T. Porter, R. Mackay, R. Underwood, T. Reardon, T. Turl, P. Beal, D. Russell, A. Gane, P. Lee, B. Friend, K. Somers. Subs: R. Horstead, J. Beyer (not used).

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle, P. Birdseye, B. Davies, K. Mead, A. Phillips, J. Priestley, G. McKenzie, M. Holifield, D. Evans, H. Kennedy, A. Horseman (D. Harris 73 mins.).

Goalscorers: Slough — Mackay (6 mins.), Wycombe — McKenzie (22 mins.), Kennedy (45, 88 mins.), Horseman (58 mins.).

MONAGHAN GOAL SPARKS BLUES

St Albans Youth 1, Wycombe Wanderers Youth 4

WYCOMBE Wanderers rounded off the league section of the Berger Paints Isthmian Youth Cup in great style at Clarence Park on Wednesday night with a convincing 4-1 victory over St Albans.

This was Wycombe's second win in seven days over St Albans and keeps alive their hopes of qualifying for the later knock-out stages of the competition.

At present they stand in the third qualifying spot and can be overtaken only by Maidenhead who must win their final two games against Hendon (last night) and Southall (next Wednesday) to do so.

Even if they fail to qualify Wycombe can be pleased with the way they rounded off their league campaign after a shaky start in the first few matches. No player will remember this game with more pleasure than full-back Mick Monaghan who scored for the third week running.

Indeed, Monaghan opened the scoring after an even start,

with a spectacular 25-yard shot. Goalkeeper Bennett seemed to have the ball covered, but it rose over his head and flew into the back of the net. This goal came in the 13th minute — talk about the luck of the Irish!

With their best player, Berryman, causing problems, St Albans had several scoring chances in the first half and twice shot straight across the face of the goalmouth. But with a neat off-side trap and thanks to some hard work by Kevin Halstead and Jimmy Jacobs, Wycombe managed to hold on to their lead until the break.

However, the home side managed to equalise in the 55th minute through Berryman, who beat the off-side trap to place the ball past Chris Smith.

They regained the lead in the

62nd minute when Neil Cordice, who enjoyed one of his best games, headed home from Monaghan's corner. Only a desperate goalline clearance by Steve Harvey prevented St Albans equalising but Wycombe then made the game safe with two more goals.

In the 75th minute Cordice crossed to Joe Kovtich, who chested the ball and saw his shot on the turn bounce into the net off a post. Then two minutes from the end the irrepressible Monaghan, on an overlapping run, passed to Garry Stanners. His shot hit a defender and bounced into the net for an own goal.

WYCOMBE YOUTH: C. Smith, G. Smith, M. Monaghan, C. Ludlow, S. Harvey, R. Collins, K. Halstead, J. Jacobs, N. Cordice, J. Kovtich, G. Stanners. Sub: G. Pearce (not used).